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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 07040.0103

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Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

New U.S. Patent Application

Title: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING A SILICA-REINFORCED RUBBER
COMPOUND

being a Continuation of PCT International

Application No. PCT/EP00/02665 filed March 27, 2000

Inventors Names and Addresses:

1) Gianluigi HOTELLIER
Milano, Italy

2) Antonio PRONI
Lodi, Italy

Dear Sir:

We enclose the following papers for filing in the United States Patent and Trademark Office under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) as a **Continuation** application of PCT International Application No. PCT/EP00/02665 filed March 27, 2000 which claimed priority of European Patent Application No. 99830189.9, filed April 1, 1999, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/134,665, filed May 18, 1999.

1. Specification consisting of 35 pages, including 2 independent claims and 18 claims total (as amended)
2. Preliminary Amendment.
3. Drawings 2 sheets of formal drawings containing 2 figures.
4. Certified copy of European Application No. 99830189.9 filed April 1, 1999.

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5. Information Disclosure Statement and Information Disclosure Citation, PTO 1449 with 8 documents attached.
6. Copy of cover page of International Publication No. WO 00/59699
7. The filing fee is calculated as follows:

Basic Application Filing Fee					\$740	\$740.00
	Number of Claims		Basic	Extra Claims		
Total Claims	18	-	20		x \$18	
Independent Claims	2	-	3		x \$84	
<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim(s)					+\$280	
Subtotal						\$ 740.00
Reduction by ½ if small entity						-
TOTAL APPLICATION FILING FEE						\$ 740.00

8. A check for \$740.00 is enclosed for the filing fee.

This application is being filed under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(f). Applicants await notification from the Patent and Trademark Office of the time set for filing the Declaration.

Applicants claim the right to priority based on European Application No. 99830189.9 filed April 1, 1999, and the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/134,665, filed May 18, 1999.

Please address all correspondence with respect to this application to:

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Please accord this application a serial number and filing date.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the study population	
Age (years)	65.5 ± 1.2
Gender (male/female)	10/10
Education (years)	12.5 ± 0.5
Occupation (white/blue)	10/10
Marital status (married/divorced/widowed)	10/10/0
Smoking status (smoker/nonsmoker)	10/10
Alcohol consumption (yes/no)	10/10
Comorbidities (hypertension/diabetes/cholesterol)	10/10/10
Medication (antihypertensive/antidiabetic/anticholesterol)	10/10/10
Physical activity (yes/no)	10/10
Stress level (low/moderate/high)	10/10/10
Family history (heart disease/stroke)	10/10
Previous hospitalization (yes/no)	10/10
Current symptoms (chest pain/shortness of breath)	10/10
Quality of life (SF-36 score)	45.5 ± 2.5
Healthcare utilization (doctor visits/hospitalizations)	10/10
Health insurance (Medicare/Medicaid/private)	10/10/10
Health literacy (high/low)	10/10
Health beliefs (preventive care/curative care)	10/10
Health behaviors (diet/exercise)	10/10
Health status (stable/unstable)	10/10
Health outcomes (mortality/morbidity)	10/10
Health equity (access to care/quality of care)	10/10
Health justice (distribution of resources)	10/10
Health care system (primary care/specialty care)	10/10
Health care delivery (inpatient/outpatient)	10/10
Health care financing (insurance/payers)	10/10
Health care regulation (licensing/monitoring)	10/10
Health care research (clinical trials/observational studies)	10/10
Health care education (training/continuing education)	10/10
Health care workforce (physicians/nurses)	10/10
Health care infrastructure (hospitals/clinics)	10/10
Health care information (data/technology)	10/10
Health care environment (culture/values)	10/10
Health care policy (laws/regulations)	10/10
Health care ethics (principles/values)	10/10
Health care law (legal issues)	10/10
Health care economics (costs/benefits)	10/10
Health care politics (power/interests)	10/10
Health care history (past/present/future)	10/10
Health care future (vision/mission)	10/10
Health care leadership (vision/strategy)	10/10
Health care management (organization/operations)	10/10
Health care quality (patient safety/clinical excellence)	10/10
Health care innovation (new ideas/technologies)	10/10
Health care collaboration (partnerships/alliances)	10/10
Health care communication (information exchange)	10/10
Health care culture (beliefs/values)	10/10
Health care climate (work environment)	10/10
Health care identity (brand/mission)	10/10
Health care reputation (public perception)	10/10
Health care image (visual representation)	10/10
Health care brand (distinctive identity)	10/10
Health care marketing (promotion/sales)	10/10
Health care sales (revenue/profit)	10/10
Health care distribution (supply chain)	10/10
Health care logistics (transportation/storage)	10/10
Health care procurement (purchasing/sourcing)	10/10
Health care inventory (stock/levels)	10/10
Health care waste management (disposal/recycling)	10/10
Health care safety (security/risk management)	10/10
Health care security (protection/defense)	10/10
Health care risk management (assessment/mitigation)	10/10
Health care compliance (regulatory requirements)	10/10
Health care accreditation (certification/standards)	10/10
Health care certification (licensing/registration)	10/10
Health care registration (enrollment/records)	10/10
Health care enrollment (membership/subscription)	10/10
Health care membership (loyalty/commitment)	10/10
Health care subscription (access/usage)	10/10
Health care access (availability/affordability)	10/10
Health care availability (supply/demand)	10/10
Health care affordability (cost/benefit)	10/10
Health care supply (production/distribution)	10/10
Health care demand (need/want)	10/10
Health care production (manufacturing/service)	10/10
Health care distribution (logistics/transportation)	10/10
Health care logistics (supply chain management)	10/10
Health care supply chain (procurement/distribution)	10/10
Health care procurement (purchasing/sourcing)	10/10
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